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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

DOC working with Public Health in routine TB investigation

As part of a routine tuberculosis (TB) investigation, the Department of Correction (DOC) is working with Delaware's Division of Public Health (DPH) to conduct health screenings, including tuberculin skin tests, for select DOC staff and some current and former offenders at The Webb Community Correction Center in Wilmington. The screenings are being conducted after it was discovered that a former offender was diagnosed with active TB. That person, who has been determined to have a very low chance of being infectious, is currently receiving treatment in a local hospital.

Although the type of TB that has been confirmed has a low incidence of transmission, DPH is following its routine protocol to ensure the health and safety of those who may have been in close contact with the individual.

TB is a bacteria that is inhaled into the lungs. The bacteria are released into the air when a TB-infected person coughs. People with TB disease are most likely to spread it to people they spend time with every day, such as family members, friends and coworkers. Signs and symptoms of TB include a strong cough that lasts more than two weeks, coughing up blood or sputum, chest pain, weakness or fatigue, weight loss, appetite loss, chills, fever and night sweats.